

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when large companies control the airwaves, public interests are sometimes not served, as in this case of Sinclair using its corporate advantage to air a partisan piece like the one just mentioned ("Stolen Honor"). This is contrary to the law and the needs for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it is more important and in line with the public interest that we get to see real people from our own communities, and more substantive and impartial proper news reporting about issues that matter to the public.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.